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Greenbryre Mansion
10

Photo: Lillian Lane

Cover: With brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins galore, living next door to relatives can mean having the best neighbours in town. Photo: Lillian Lane

HOME Front

Hat from Saskatoon's own
Sova Design Millinery.



Photo of Amanda Soulodre by Lillian Lane

Welcome to our sumptuous 40th issue, full of all sorts of treats to warm you up this winter. We're happy to help you find ways to enjoy Saskatoon during the winter months both indoors and out. Think of it as a hibernation staycation; discover what there is to offer from November to, well, maybe April (pg. 46). And when you need a break, our resident foodie tempts us with German bierock, a heavenly savoury excuse to come back inside, shed those layers and refuel (pg. 56).

We've got some stories about building. One features a set of siblings who built side-by-side homes, raising their families literally a stone's throw away. Have we evolved to a more civilized society where brothers and sisters want to live right next door to each other? We'll find out (pg. 23).

When a young family found their perfect infill corner lot, one that sat empty for over 50 years, it required tact, sensitivity and a commitment to blend. But the lot had other surprises buried about 10 feet down (pg. 32).

If you are looking for ideas on making your home both adult- and kid-friendly, see a great interior made to please all ages—without making it look like the circus is in town. If you've always dreamed of having an indoor climbing wall, check this out (pg. 69).

Maybe you've heard about the show stopping 16,358 sq. ft. three-storey house (with basement and rooftop teahouse) going up in Greenbryre Estates? It's Decora

Homes' largest project ever; they and the homeowners graciously granted us a sneak peek during construction. We're talking waterslide, 21-seat theatre, climbing wall, pool, elevator, RV garage. Let's say it's hard to find adjectives that wrap their arms around it (pg. 10).

We've got transformations on a smaller scale, too. See how paint can still make a difference in your living space. Meet a couple who transformed their home to enjoy now and update for potential resale. Find out how to make your own paint project successful (pg. 39).

Take a look outside with our historian Jeff O'Brien to see what kinds of extreme weather Saskatoon has experienced over its lifetime. With all this talk about climate change, heed the notion that what's past is prologue (pg. 60).

Finally, it might be food on the table, what we hang on the wall, wrap around ourselves, or regale our children with about the Old Country. There are many ways we keep our cultural identity and ethnic roots alive. It's just a sample our Saskatoon's diversity, but ten people in our diverse city share how they keep their heritage vibrant year around (pg. 51).

Happy reading!

AMANDA SOULODRE
OWNER & PUBLISHER

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HOME

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info@saskatoon-home.ca

Publishers

Amanda Soulodre

Rob Soulodre

Editor

Karin Melberg Schwier

Photographers

Karin Melberg Schwier

Lillian Lane

Megan Heaton

Production and Design

OneOliveDesign

Writers

Ashleigh Mattern

Craig Silliphant

Jeff O'Brien

Julie Barnes

Léo Joseph

Karin Melberg Schwier

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607 Waters Crescent,
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READER PANEL

Thank you to our Winter Issue Reader Panel (seen below). The people on the Reader Panel change every issue and are made up of fans of the magazine who volunteer to help us select our stories. Their input allows us to select stories that people in and around Saskatoon look forward to reading each and every issue. Once story ideas are chosen, we then assign them to our team of talented writers—meet them online at www.saskatoon-home.ca.



“The next project we plan to tackle in our home is changing the wall colours on the main level.

Brad McNair

*Purchasing Agent,
Mosaic Potash Company*



“I love reading HOME as I often find several people I know personally featured in one or more stories—it's great that the magazine has a completely local focus!

Dr. Nancy Burns

*Chiropractor and Acupuncturist,
Market Mall Family Chiropractic*



“I love reading HOME because it is local—revealing the immense creativity and beauty in our city.

Fr. André Lalach

Ukrainian Catholic Priest



“I wanted to get involved in the reader panel because I enjoy the magazine and wanted to support local entrepreneurs in Saskatoon's most loved magazine.

Jennifer Butler

Medical Office Assistant



“The stories I enjoy most in HOME are the ones about gardening and outdoors.

Kali Gartner

Family Physician



“The stories I love reading most in HOME are the houses I drive by and wonder what they look like inside, who lives there... what have they done with the place?

Shelly Vanbinsbergen

*Retail Merchandiser,
Wilson's Lifestyle Centre*

Interested in being on a future panel? Email: amanda@saskatoon-home.ca with 'Reader Panel' in the subject line.



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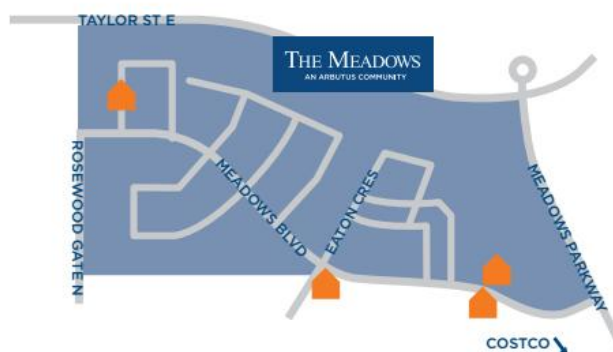
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WINTER HOME HACKS



LÉO JOSEPH



LILLIAN LANE

You know the question. You've probably heard it from non-Sasky friends or family on numerous occasions. "Why do you live in a place that gets so cold?" What they don't understand

is that we love winter! Yes, it gets brutally cold. But with a little ingenuity, you can get through the harsher parts. Here are a few winter home hacks to keep you loving it. (i)

Léo Joseph

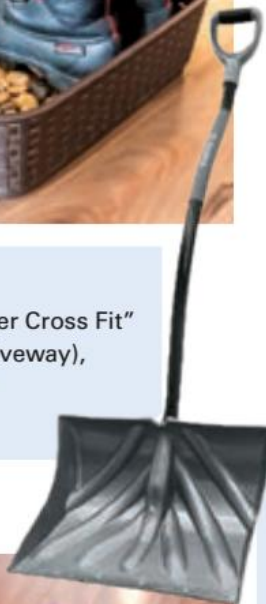
Floor Saver

Snow and water do not mix well with hardwood or laminate. And a wet carpet can be an assault on the senses. Build a winter boot rack by placing some stones in a shallow lined wooden box or basket. Through the magic of science the snow and water will slowly evaporate and your entryway will stay dry.



Unsticking Sticky Snow

When you are doing "Saskatchewan Winter Cross Fit" (also known as shoveling snow off the driveway), use cooking spray to keep the snow from sticking to your shovel.



Boots at Attention

Another reason to love winter is the change of fashion. Keep the shape of your boots by cutting a pool noodle and inserting it to hold them upright. Pool noodles. Is there anything they can't do?



Frozen Lock Cure

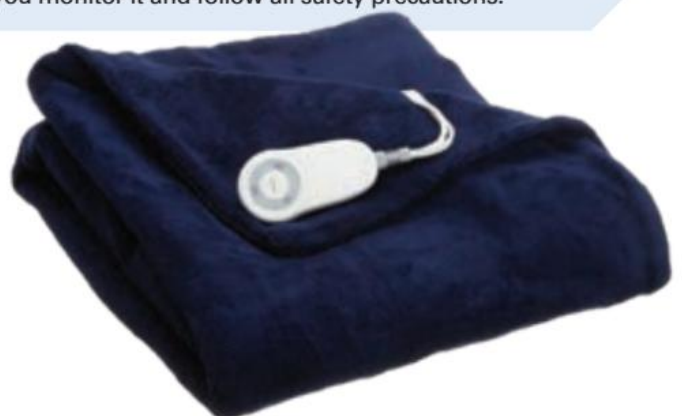
If your garage is full of sleds (or snowmobiles to the lay person), you may need to park the car outside overnight. This can lead to frozen locks. Fear not, rub some every day hand sanitizer on your keys and your locks will open with a breeze.



"What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." – John Steinbeck

Warming Trick

There's good chance you either have one or have heard of the electric blanket. It's a must-have item for winter. The trick is to put it under your regular covers and turn it on before you get into bed so you have a nice warm and toasty feeling right at bedtime. But a quick reminder. Getting a visit from the fire department at bedtime is not so great. Make sure you monitor it and follow all safety precautions.



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GREENBRYRE MANSION

The Making of an Urban Legend

Three years in, still with months to go before completion, a giant crane reaches into the grey skyline over the Greenbryre Estates construction site of what is very well Saskatoon's most talked about home.

Hard-hatted workers secure

a load of pre-stressed hollow-core concrete slabs, destined for the underground theatre roof beneath the driveway. Golfers playing through on the adjacent South Number One hole pause with a curious gaze. The home's mythical

proportions and grand features have been a topic of discussion in the housing industry since ground breaking in 2014. Indeed, Decora Homes' biggest ever single-family residential project leaves one searching for adjectives, and defies easy

description. What comes to mind time and again is simply, breathlessly, "Wow."

"It's a project that's talked about a lot, some fact, some fiction," says Whitney Romero, interior design consultant with Decora. "The one thing I can



 **KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER**

 **LILLIAN LANE**

definitely say is that, no, there is no helicopter pad on the roof.”

With the generous permission of the homeowners, Decora granted Saskatoon HOME an exclusive tour of the construction site as the three-storey 16,358 sq. ft.—

with basement and rooftop teahouse—private home was taking shape this fall. The anticipated move-in date is months ahead in summer 2018.

Spectacular and Distinctive

The list of features is, to ➤

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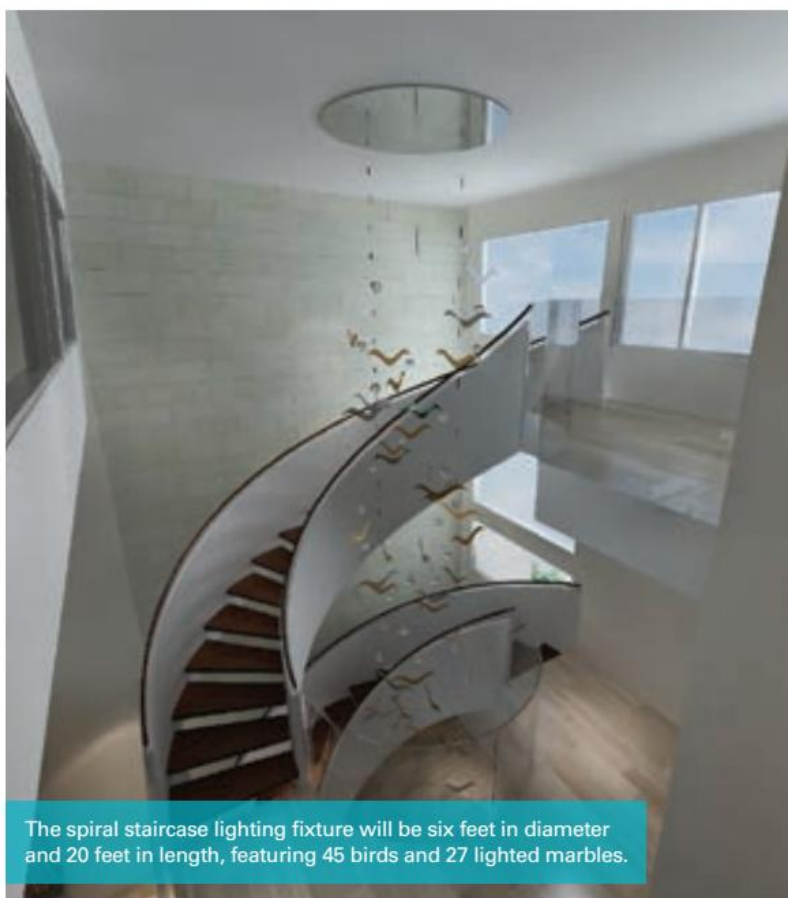
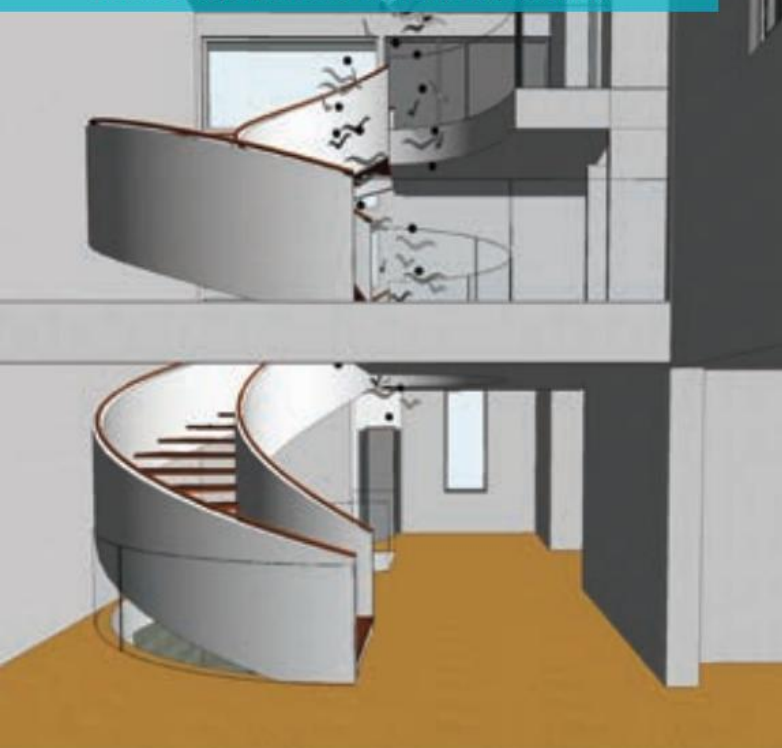
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Artist renderings (images on page 12) helped the homeowners and tradespeople see through a complex build for a clear idea of the desired result. The photo on page 13 is how the construction progress looks at the time of publication.





put it mildly, impressive. Just a few of them suggest this is not a typical home: water slide with pneumatic elevator, pool with movable floor, 21-seat theatre, a four-storey elevator, a data room requiring two A/C units running 24-hours-a-day, a secondary spice/fry kitchen, in-floor heating throughout, an RV garage for a converted Mercedes Sprinter van, an indoor treehouse, and a teahouse on the roof.

These aren't the normal features that pop up when describing a typical home build. Perhaps it is the accumulation of these special elements and more that make this home so unusual.

Flexibility Good Builder Trait

When Whitney gave Saskatoon HOME a sneak peek, work was steadily moving onward throughout the project, and

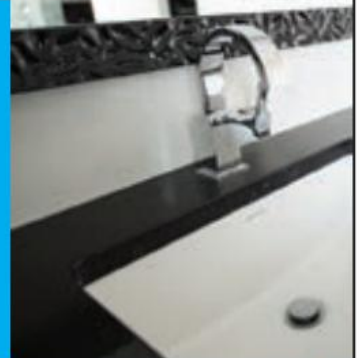
particular attention was being paid to a major change in the plans. Being nimble as a home builder allows for changes a homeowner might want as the project moves ahead, even changes that might prove daunting. The recent changes required the demolition of the entry canopy walkway, and a reconfiguration of part of the home, and an addition of 3,514 square feet.

"There's an expansion because the waterslide was not quite large enough," explains Whitney, "and we found a commercial grade pool company who could work with features like a stainless steel pool with movable floor, jets, deck mount massage fountains and the coordination with the commercial waterslide. Because it required substantial structural changes, we also brought back the architect ➤

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The home, already a legend, is expected to be completed in the summer of 2018.



and engineer." Because of a growing demand for greater mechanical, electrical and automation capacity and housing, a rework of the original plan was necessary.

"We already knew we were into an expansion since the original plans had a relatively small theatre and that was made larger," she explains.

"So with that, and a bigger waterslide and commercial pool, it just means it's more complex." Interactive electronics, operated by watersliders using the slide, have never been installed in Canada, though it's a trend for slides in Europe.

Whitney recalls a couple of meetings with the room filled

with main project engineer, the architect, the home builder, pool company, concrete and piling companies and installer. "I couldn't believe how many trades, disciplines and engineers were here, all thinking about different aspects of the expansion. The amount of coordination required to build the structure around the pool and

rough in the piping and electrical is far beyond the level of coordination required for a typical residential project or even for a high-rise like River Landing."

When it was determined solar panels should be installed, they were destined for the pool roof rather than at the very top. Electrical and



Rendering: Decora Homes Ltd.

structural considerations had to be rethought. But that still allowed for the turf installation on the third floor surrounding the rooftop teahouse.

"Changes happen, but you make it work," says Whitney, "When the project is completely done, we want it to be exactly what the homeowners want."

Blending Different Styles

"They are just lovely people," says Whitney, who has developed a good rapport and managed to create the interior design elements to please each of them. On the surface, some of the home's elements have an amusement park quality, but in the end, this is a single-family home so blending over- ➤

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Theatre: Under the driveway is a 2,609 sq. ft., 21-seat theatre with 17.5-foot wide screen and 3D capability with automatic motorized masking to adapt the film aspect ratio of movie shown. Themed entry hallway sets the tone for interior theatre design.

Pool and Waterslide: A movable floor means the depth can be set to various levels depending on who is using it and for what purpose. When the pool is not in use, the floor raises to basement floor level; water filters through below for ultimate safety cover. Included are two swim jets, four deck-mounted massage foundations, and a pneumatic elevator to the waterslide platform. There is also a mechanical room for pool equipment and another for the waterslide and steam room.

Rooftop Teahouse: Atop the third floor, accessible by an elevator and stairs, there is a room used for formal and informal entertaining. An artist is creating a custom-made decorative screen for this space, featuring cherry blossoms made of walnut and bronze, and a large custom walnut table.

Garages: RV garage plus 3-car garage.

Kitchens: Western kitchen, as well as a secondary full Chinese kitchen.

For the Children: Bedrooms, separate ensuite, library with reading nooks, individual workstations with computers, stairs climb to 'treehouse' room, giant hammock overhanging the stairwell.

Waterworks: 8 bathrooms, 3 powder rooms, automated toilets, 4 urinals, 2 steam showers, an elder's tub with a mechanized side that moves up and down for easy in and out, and a custom infinity edge bathtub in master ensuite.

One Each: Elder suite, nanny suite, guest suite with private bathrooms.

Climbing Wall: Curved, 10 feet high.

Landscaping: Water features front, back yard designed by a landscape architect.

Mechanical: There are five electrical/hvac rooms in the home, one of which is dedicated to the data control system.

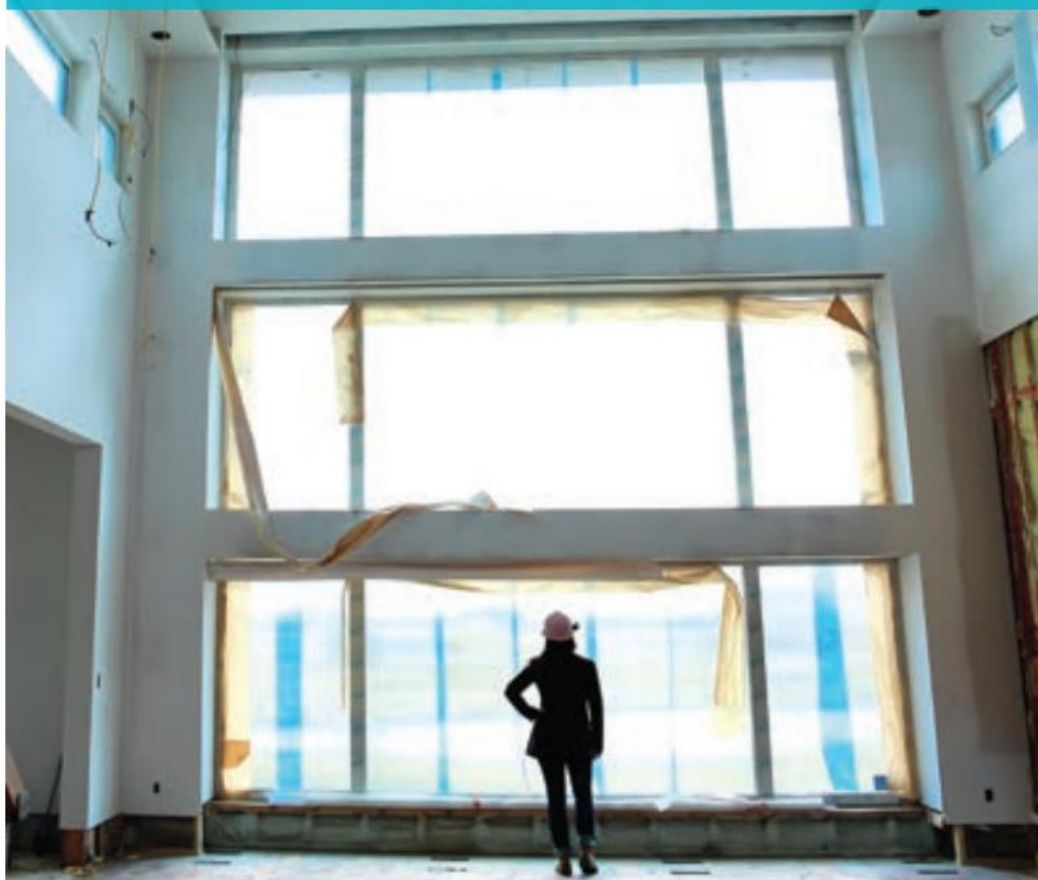
the-top features with everyday living is her task.

"The challenge really comes in combining the two styles," she says. "There's often a juxtaposition of his and hers; she's elegant and soft, and he is energized by big and bold. I am constantly reminded how energized he is when we talk about features like the treehouse in the children's wing, the waterslide, the climbing wall, the teahouse."

Subtle and quiet on the surface seems to oppose bright and bold but Whitney has been able to find materials and fixtures that combine to complement each other.

"There are many examples throughout the house where we've come up with solutions they both like. It has to be large to fit the scale. Something might be big and bold but by including lighter, more subtle elements, we can make it work. It's been exciting for me to find ways to combine those ➤

Completing the project will be bittersweet for interior design consultant Whitney Romero. "They're lovely people and we've developed a real rapport, working together so creatively during this project."





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Scale models were created so builders and homeowners could better envision the designs. This scale model of the custom master ensuite bathtub featuring an infinity edge shows how the millworker fabricated the surround. He bent the corian so “there’s no way to tell where the surround begins or the tub ends.”



The infinity edge bathtub during construction.

TECHNICAL/MECHANICAL ELEMENTS:

Solar panels feed five Tesla Powerwall batteries; power can be drawn in the event of an outage.

Motorized window coverings throughout house.

Security system with facial detection and video analytics.

Professional karaoke system with 70 speakers throughout.

Four 84-inch touch screen displays work as TVs, also as interactive games, and visuals for business meetings.

Centralized automatic lighting with key pads where lights go on or off when people enter or leave a room.

Elevator access to all four floors, including the teahouse.

Detachable baseboards flush with walls with LED lighting, provide easy access to electrical.

Master bedroom Italian TV lift hidden by a retractable electric arm covered by a custom 14-foot wave sculpture on the ceiling when not in use.



styles. Even if they contrast, they can do so in an interesting way that works."

The Heart of the Home

An important artery that runs up through all floors of the house, hidden behind the elevator cavity, is a collection of low voltage wires through all four storeys that powers the home automation on each level. All wiring for home automation runs through this data shaft to the basement data room. If that room is the brains of the house, the heart is surely the kitchen. But this is a muscular heart.

The large western-style kitchen is an open concept with lots of natural light and clean white finishes. A huge 17-foot island has custom lighting above, and the cabi-

nets are designed to integrate the control panel to make it visually coordinate with the appliances. "It looks like one large multifaceted command centre," Whitney explains.

Most modern kitchens feature a pantry, normally a small storage room off the kitchen. In this home, it extends along an entire hallway, has an additional fridge and freezer and is hidden behind a wall designed as a wave with high gloss doors and touch latch function. The same type of wave wall also hides from view a spice/fry kitchen, sometimes called a 'dirty kitchen,' where hot oil and pungent cooking is done.

The Challenges of Scale

The scale of the project is another challenge, and Whitney has worked closely with ➤

Whitney Romero describes the Italian TV lift and the 14 foot wave panel designed by the local millworker to hide it.



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS/UNIQUE MATERIALS, FINISHES:

Quartz panels on both master and elder ensuite walls; elder suite wet room with quartz ceiling panels.

Custom light fixtures to accommodate ceiling heights and scale.

Molded wavy doors finished in high gloss automotive paint for all interior doors.

All door handles have magnetic latch instead of the traditional hole in jamb.

Curved custom cabinets with walnut accents, high gloss automotive paint.

Fireplace surround a series of walnut slats carved to create a wave pattern.

Felt wall finishes in the theatre for appropriate acoustics.

Light, soft colour scheme throughout with accents in walnut.

Pantry hallway millwork connects to kitchen, with hidden door to secondary kitchen.

ENGINEERING/ARCHITECTURAL/INTERIOR DESIGN ELEMENTS:

Exterior Tyndall stone from Winnipeg quarry.

Pre-stressed hollow-core concrete slabs for theatre ceiling, driveway floor for structural integrity.

Most ceilings are nine feet; great room 20 feet, stairwell 30 feet.

Transom style windows have automated openers and auto blinds.

Custom millwork throughout.

Six foot in diameter chandelier.

Spiral staircase from main to third floor made of steel, finished in walnut treads with high gloss paint on guardrails, recessed stringer lighting.

All baseboards, door casings, and windows are recessed and flush with walls.

Bathroom windows have quartz jambs to protect from humidity.

Multiple decks, 700 sq. ft. on main, two on second floor; one overlooking the back, another overlooking the front and two on third floor looking onto the rooftop.

the architect, millworker and the homeowners on various models and renderings to better visualize the plans.

"For example, finding a light fixture that will hang in the open space created by the curved staircase was a challenge," says Whitney. "I had to customize one that would extend from the ceiling of the third floor and it hangs down

to eight feet above the main floor. I found a company that offered custom fixtures and worked with them to reformat the proportions and finishes of one of their designs and finished to coordinate with the home's interior." The end result is a breathtaking lighting fixture six feet in diameter.

"It brings a soft and organic feel to the very modern high

gloss staircase," she says. "Again, the two styles of husband and wife; the light fixture has birds and glass balls, delicate and reflective, but the entire thing is quite jaw-dropping, sleek and modern."

The millworker, who has done all the custom finishing in the home, has also created unique pieces like the hand-

carved walnut surround for the fireplace. It's an impressive 14-foot by 17-foot-high feature.

"Interior fixtures and elements have to be large and dynamic to fit the scale," Whitney adds.

Closing In On Completion

Whitney says the house really begins to look like a home, not just a construction site, when installation of ➤

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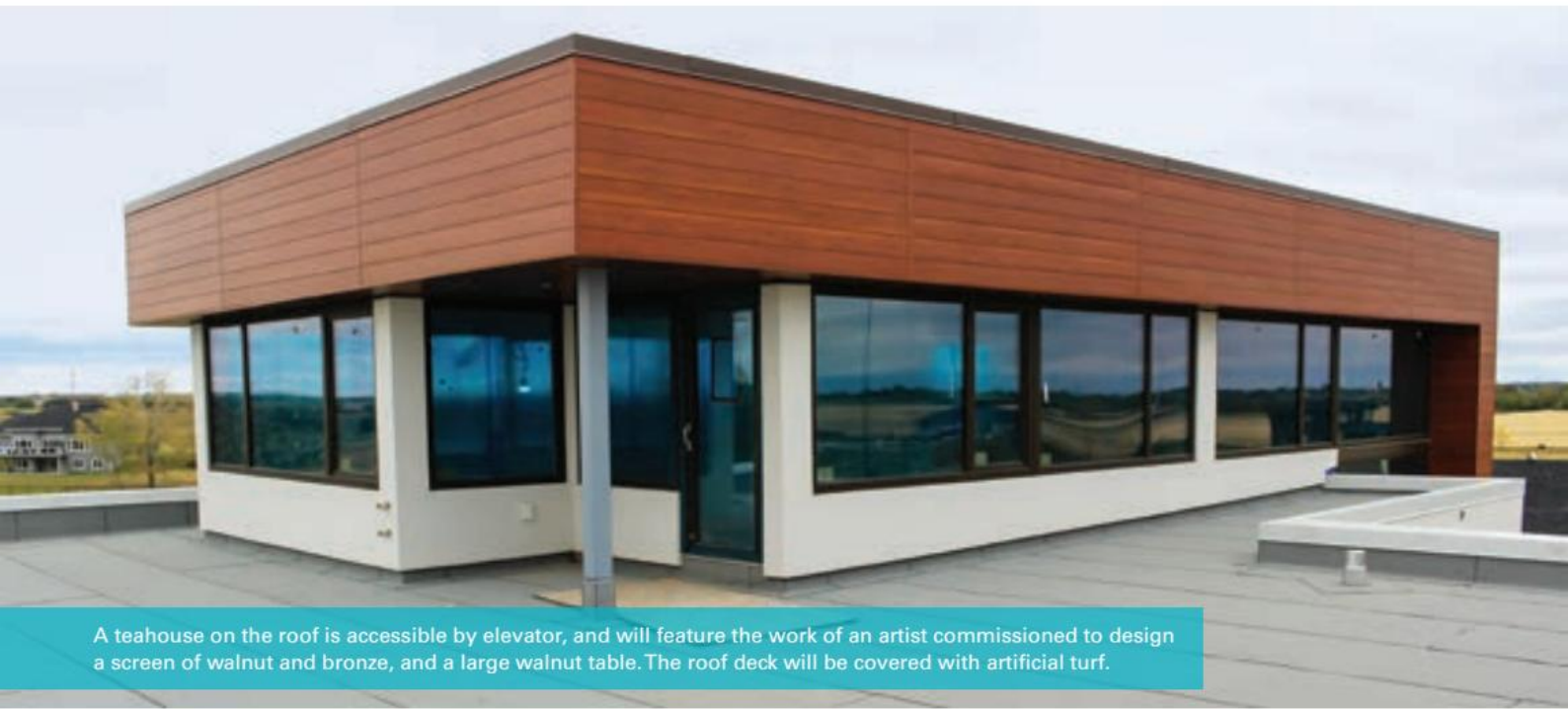
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A tea house on the roof is accessible by elevator, and will feature the work of an artist commissioned to design a screen of walnut and bronze, and a large walnut table. The roof deck will be covered with artificial turf.



Tyndall stone on the exterior was excavated from a quarry in Winnipeg. It's the same dolomitic limestone used on the new Canadian Human Rights Museum in that city.



Removable baseboards include light channels for LED lighting. In-floor heating runs throughout the home.

cabinetry and finishing materials begins. Everyone working on the project has their favourite elements; Whitney's include the 'treehouse' for the children, the curved staircase, theatre, pool-room and the elevator. It's hard, she says, to pick only a few.

"It's so exciting to start seeing it come together now," she says. But she says, adding

with a wistful tone, "It'll be very difficult when this is done because everyone involved has spent so much time here, and we've devoted so much to the project. The experience with this collaboration will be a great asset to have for future projects." (i)

Karin Melberg Schwier

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A collection of low voltage wiring, hidden behind the elevator cavity in a data shaft, powers the extensive home automation.



JULIE BARNES



LILLIAN LANE

SIXTH STREET SIBLINGS

Living Next Door to Your Next-of-Kin

For better or for worse, we don't usually get to choose our neighbours. But one family in Haultain had the opportunity to do just that a few years ago, and they couldn't be happier with the result.

For several years, Tyler

and Sara Stewart owned a tiny green bungalow on a 50-foot lot near Broadway, which they rented out while living in Willowgrove. "Every time I drove by the rental, I thought, 'Man, I would love to live in this area,'" says Tyler,

noting the beauty of the mature tree canopy throughout the neighbourhood.

During a casual phone conversation in 2014 with his sister Rebecca Genik, Tyler mentioned that he might build a house next door to the rental

for his family to move into (he and Sara have three children). Rebecca, who is eight years younger, replied nonchalantly, "We should just build side-by-side."

Rebecca laughs as she recalls her brother's ➤



The families who play together stay together, especially if they're living side by side.



response, "Tyler said, 'How fun would that be? We could have a tunnel, or a bridge across.' Right away, we had all these ideas." As the excitement grew, they reminded each other they both had spouses to consider.

Sara, and Rebecca's husband Lane, didn't require much convincing. "We thought we'd have free babysitting," says Sara with a laugh. "If you can choose your neighbours, and it's family, why not? We get along."

Cooperative Construction

After the green bungalow came down, they leveraged their professional skills to act as their own general contractors. Tyler is an affordable housing provider and Rebecca is an interior designer for a local commercial architecture firm. For the most part, they used the same tradespeople.

One of the biggest benefits of building side-by-side was that only one of the four adults needed to be on site at a time to manage the two builds. ➤

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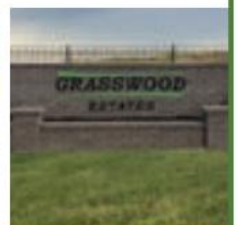
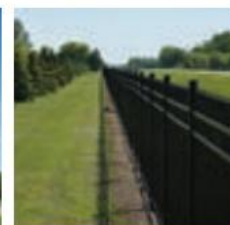
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During the construction process, both families travelled to Finland together, where they were inspired by classic Scandinavian design: white walls, wood detailing and fur accessories. Tyler and Sara decided to recreate that modern yet cozy vibe in their new home.





They communicated with one another via a WhatsApp group chat to share updates and photos of the construction progress.

Tyler and Sara hired an architectural technologist to assist them in designing their home, while Lane and Rebecca designed theirs themselves. Although their homes have nearly identical footprints, the layouts are quite different. This led to some minor mix-ups for the framers, electricians and plumbers. "There were some structural features that were specific to each one—tall walls for example—so there was some confusion," said Tyler. "In hindsight, we could have probably kept that more separate in how we shared communications with the trades."

Adjacency Advantages

Small hiccups aside, both families love their current living situation. In addition to the free babysitting, they have a long list of perks that come with living beside each other. If they're missing a recipe ingredient, they can usually find it in the kitchen next door. They borrow tools from one other, check on each other's houses and water plants during vacations ➤



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From the outside, the two homes have a similar architectural style, but the interiors are quite different. Rebecca describes her family home as "contemporary modern" and Tyler and Sara's home as "rustic modern."



The families' children happily wander between the two households.



Photo: Megan Heaton

and shovel each other's walks. When one family has a lot of company, the other offers up their spare bedrooms to help accommodate extra guests.

Best of all, now that Rebecca and Lane have two young children of their own, both families are witnessing their children grow up together as cousins who are just as close as siblings. In fact, Tyler and Sara's daughter, Sierra, was born just five months after Rebecca and Lane's son, Jett. The toddlers are so inseparable that their parents jokingly refer to them as twins.

Sibling Revelry

At least once a week, the two families enjoy meals together. During the summer,

they gather together almost every evening in their shared backyard, barbecuing and socializing while their kids play. They attend festivals, meet for picnics in nearby parks and cycle the river trails together. They even travel together when schedules permit.

So, how is it they all get along so well?

Like most siblings (okay, *all* siblings), it wasn't always so amicable. "We had a rough time or two getting along growing up," says Rebecca. "Our favourite oldest brother was always our mediator." Once Tyler moved out of the Stewart family home, a bit of space and maturity on both sides improved their relationship immensely, they ➤

Coins collected from Tyler and Sara's travels have been set within the polished concrete floor throughout the entire laundry room.





say. Today, their banter is full of good-natured teasing about the other sibling's birth order.

"The Middle Child Syndrome is definitely a thing," says Rebecca with a laugh.

"Rebecca was the baby of the family, so she was spoiled rotten," counters Tyler.

No Rules

Aside from teaching their kids to let one of the adults know where they are if they're at the other house, the families didn't create any formal rules of engagement.

"A list of rules would make it tense and more awkward," says Rebecca. "We're probably more transparent as a whole than most families would be. We're okay to call a spade a spade and address a problem."

Sara adds, "If you're setting rules you probably won't get



Rebecca and Lane's home recently won silver in the MASI Design Awards residential category.

Photos: Megan Heaton

along. If you don't set expectations, life is much happier."

No Regrets

During the design phase of their home, Rebecca and Lane decided to situate their master bedroom on the third floor. "For us, it's a benefit—doing stairs without realizing you're doing stairs," says Rebecca. "It keeps us active without realizing it."

Tyler wasn't convinced it was a good decision, and tried to prove his point in a way only a sibling can. "Tyler and Sara were living in Willowgrove at the time," says Rebecca, "and Tyler made us run from the basement, to the main floor, to the second floor and then said, 'Now the bacon is burning, run back downstairs!' and then, 'You forgot your socks, run back upstairs!'"

Undeterred by Tyler's attempted reality check, Rebecca and Lane kept their blueprints unchanged, and have no regrets about the built-in cardio their third-floor bedroom requires.

In fact, neither family can think of anything they'd change, or any challenges in living next door to their next-of-kin. No regrets. Well, maybe just one, says Rebecca.

"Probably the kids' biggest regret is we didn't put in a tunnel between the homes, or a drawbridge from rooftop deck to rooftop deck." (i)

Julie Barnes



Photos: Megan Heaton



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



LILLIAN LANE

29TH STREET BACK STORY

An Infill Overcomes Unexpected Twists

When Krista and Ryan Martens started looking for a lot, they had in mind a certain feeling, a particular neighbourhood that reminded them of their childhoods. He grew up in Elbow, she in Central Butte. They wanted daughter Haylee to have that same small town experience. After searching for

almost two years, they found a large empty corner lot in Mount Royal at Avenue R and 29th. They were intrigued. It felt right.

"We found out who owned the lot, and it turned out they lived right next door," says Ryan. "They weren't overly anxious to sell." There were

some phone calls and Ryan finally asked if he could come by with an offer.

"If they turned it down, well, we'd just move on," he says simply. "I went over and something just clicked. Even before they answered the door, I thought, yep, we are going to own this land."

Dennis and Margaret Loewen had purchased their lot in 1960. There had been plans to widen 29th Street. But when that didn't materialize, the City approached the homeowners on the adjacent lots along this strip. The Loewens paid \$1,600 for the 50 x 140 foot corner lot next to their



Reclaimed fir beams in the main hallway came from Last Mountain Timber in Regina Beach.

own. Over the years, they were approached many times by potential buyers but they were never interested. Concerned about losing their view to a large duplex, they preferred to keep the land open.

"Their first question for us," says Krista, when the couple made an offer in 2012, "was what kind of house were we planning. They were only interested in a single family dwelling."

A Considerate Infill

Krista, an architectural technologist, has planned many homes for clients of her business, Beyond Measure Design. Their own was also a thorough year-long process. About 12 plans later, they had what they wanted. They broke ground

in 2013 on a just-under 1,500 square-foot home. Concerned with their next-door-neighbours' comfort, the Martens kept the Loewens involved.

"We wanted to be considerate and show them what we were planning. It's not like we just subdivided the lot, bought it from them and said 'take a hike'! In fact, I think Dennis became our second or third site supervisor during the build," says Krista. "He would keep an eye out and check on the progress."

The Martens believed their infill should also be respectful of the neighbourhood, even though the house had many modern elements.

"When you drive by, you see that ours is new, but it doesn't scream 'different.' We ➤

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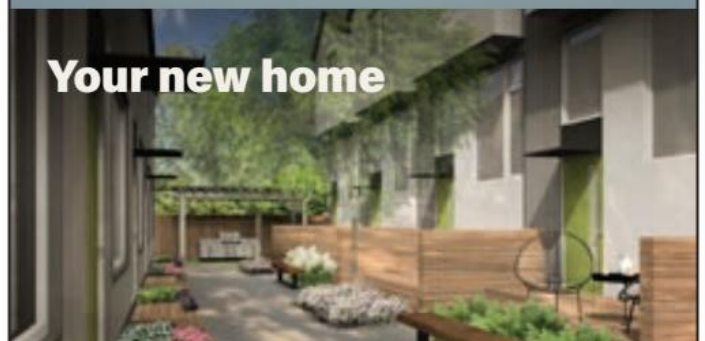
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Margaret and Dennis Loewen, 1960, and today.



29TH STREET STORY—WIDE OPEN SPACES

In 1960, Margaret and Dennis Loewen were a young couple expecting their first child when they bought a 1957-built house near the corner of 29th Street and Avenue R in Mount Royal. It sat on a 50 by 140 foot lot. The couple appreciated the unobstructed view; the large corner lot next to them was empty.

It wasn't too long before they found out why. The City came knocking on their door and asked the Loewens if they'd like to buy the lot—the same size as theirs—for \$1,600. It seems there had been plans to widen that section of 29th Street but when that didn't happen, the City offered the lots adjacent to the street to the nearest homeowners.

The couple, married in 1954, raised Pat and Greg on the "big" corner. Dennis was in parts at Cockshutt Farm Equipment, eventually moving to Intercontinental Packers before retiring 20 years later. Margaret stayed with McMaster's Photography until she was over 75. Longevity a strong suit, they lived on the property for almost 60 years.

The Loewens were the only ones who didn't build on it or sell. For decades, Dennis tended the combined 95 feet of frontage from 1960 to 2017, pulling "Honest to Pete, every flippin' dandelion," says Margaret. He mowed grass and blew snow. The empty lot served as a laneway to their garage. Occasionally, someone would ask if they could park a car for sale on the corner. Increasingly, the knocks

came from people who wanted to develop the land but the Loewens always declined.

That is, until a "very nice" and tenacious young man contacted them in 2012. Ryan Martens talked with the Loewens, undaunted by their initial reluctance.

"They seemed like really nice people so we eventually thought, well, maybe we will finally sell the corner lot," says Dennis. When the surveyor began working on the subdivision plan, the City informed him there was a water line ten feet down.

"They couldn't build over that," says Dennis, "so we ended up giving them four extra feet of our lot. If we hadn't done that, they wouldn't have been able to build."

After decades of unobstructed views, Margaret worried, even though she was happy with her new neighbours.

"When they started to build, I thought I would feel cooped in after having that so open all those years. But I didn't. Krista knows how to draw up nice house plans, so she did one that fit the space without blocking us in."

In 2017, the Loewens eventually moved to a supported living condo.

"I miss it," says Dennis. "On the farm, my grandmother in Waldheim would pay us kids five cents a day to go pluck dandelions for her. She'd make dandelion wine. Oh, was it ever good!"

Former neighbours who bought the corner lot in 1960, Margaret and Dennis Loewen, are "happy that little Haylee is growing up right where our children played."



tried to harken back to cottage rooflines," Krista explains. "We love the Frank Lloyd Wright prairie style, and modern can be done in a very respectful way. Part of the challenge is that 'modern' has become popular. If you don't understand the aesthetics, you can really mess things up for your neighbours."

The City has firmed up guidelines for infills, mostly for scale and massing. Krista hopes new regulations will give some direction to builders so there is more respect for existing neighbourhoods.

"When we sighted our house," Krista adds, "we pushed back a bit because we knew our neighbour's front picture window gave them a view we would have intruded on."

An Unexpected Surprise

In 1930, the City's Community Planning Commission recommended 29th be used as a major "arterial route." Planning afterward was predicated on that direction. However, following an extensive traffic planning study in 1960 that featured "exhaustive analyses of existing road systems," ➤

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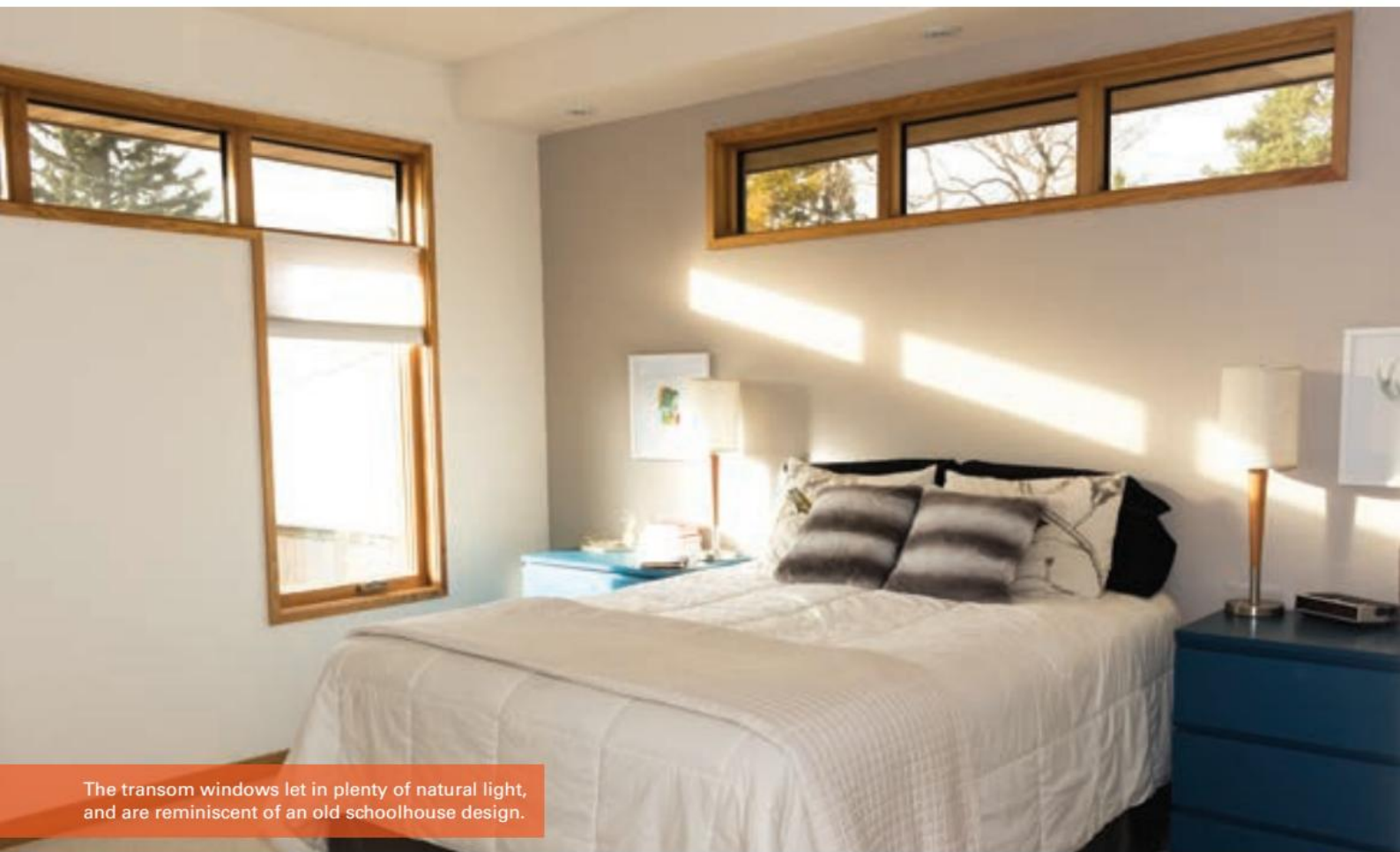


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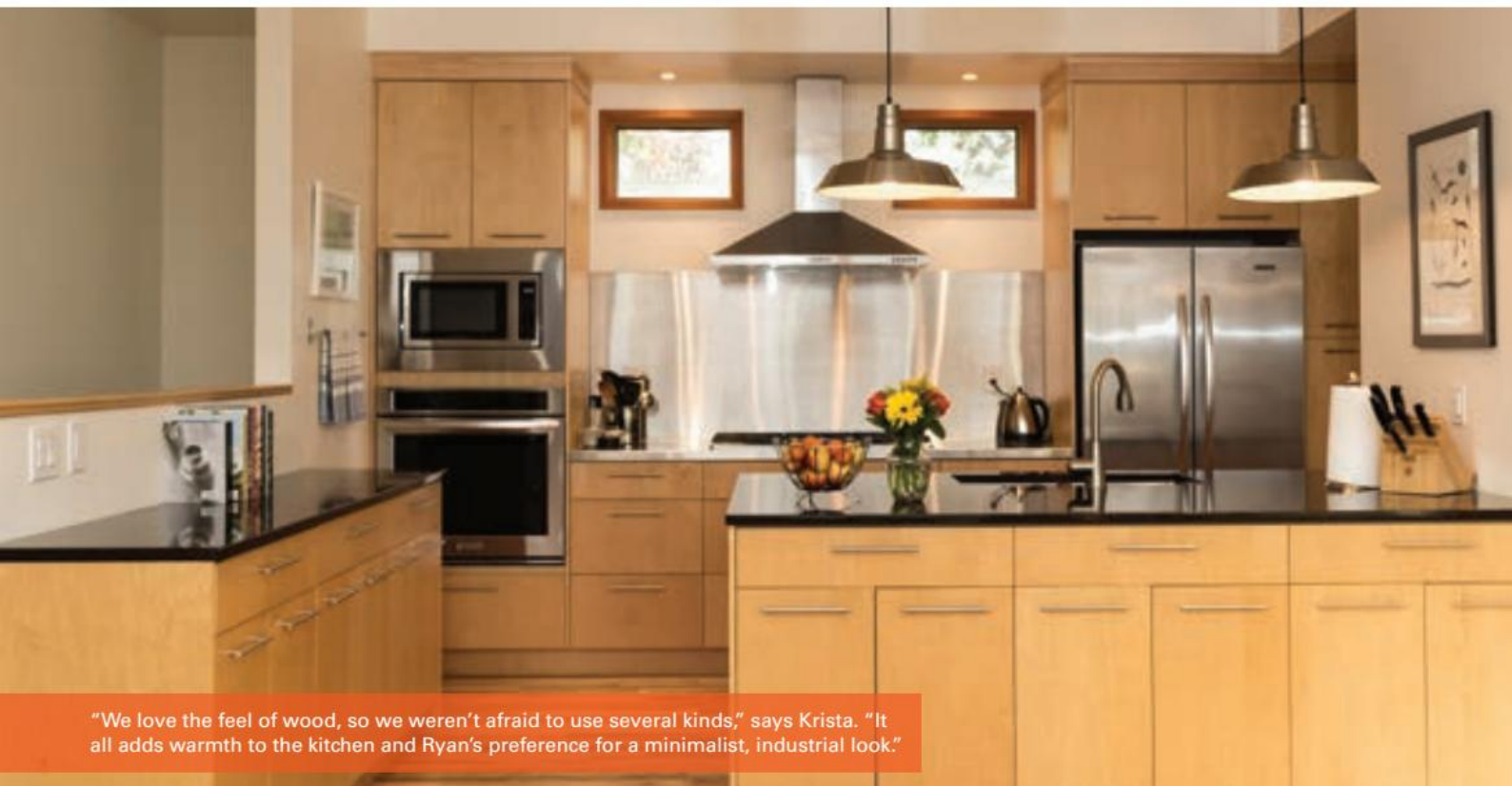
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"We love the feel of wood, so we weren't afraid to use several kinds," says Krista. "It all adds warmth to the kitchen and Ryan's preference for a minimalist, industrial look."

according to City of Saskatoon Archives documents, plans to widen 29th beyond Avenue P were abandoned. That left an interesting artifact the Martens had to deal with over 50 years later.

"There's a City waterline under that corner lot that would have been roughly in the middle of the widened street," says Ryan. "We ended up getting an additional four feet of the Loewen lot since we couldn't build over old infrastructure. We had initially wanted to plant trees along the yard beside 29th, but we can't do that either."

Krista, no stranger to house plan redesign, says while unexpected, the couple just worked around the infrastructure.

"It was a bit of a surprise, but we knew sometimes infill projects run into issues. We did a little redesign and rethought a few things," she says. "We were left with a buildable footprint of about 26 feet wide."

Small Town Feel

"When we were looking for a place to build, we knew we found what we wanted in Mount Royal," says Krista. "We noticed the upkeep of the neighbourhood. It had a



The Martens wouldn't change a thing about their Mount Royal home.

good, community sense to it, a 1960s vibe."

While the school near their old home in Dundonald had over 1,000 students, their daughter's school now has around 250. That feature was important to the Martens, too.

"I always walk to school now with my dad," says

Haylee proudly. "I'm in grade three and I'm going to walk by myself, but not quite yet."

The Martens include that sense of security as just one more element for choosing to build in Mount Royal.

"We have wonderful neighbours. Wes and Sylvia across the street have been here since

the 1960s," says Krista. "We were sorry to see Dennis and Margaret move in 2017, but we've kept in touch. It's all part of that small town living and we couldn't be happier here." (B)

Karin Melberg Schwier

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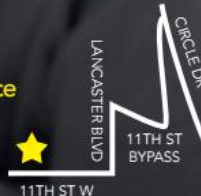
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PAIN, SIMPLY, IS A GREAT CHANGE AGENT

Couple Revamps Entire Home Décor in Two Weeks

Applying a fresh coat of paint is still, happily, one of the fastest, easiest and least expensive ways to dramatically change the look and mood of interior and exterior spaces. For Don and Janet Neufeld, it was a matter of biting the bullet to update their entire home in one go.

"I loved all of our old earth tones, the rusts, the reds, yellows and I still do, but it really was time to catch up with the trend toward lighter and brighter," explains Janet. "In fact, we're retired and if we look ahead a couple of years, we may think about down-

sizing. It'll be important to have something more current for resale, and something we love in the meantime."

Evolving to Eight Colours

Don and Janet's home is 2,100 square feet with a walk-out basement. That would be

4,200 square feet to paint. Because of the scope of the project, they knew they would hire professionals. They started with interior decorator Edie Reikman and moved on to hire 360° Painting.

"It was clear that this would be one of those monsters ➤



Entryway before and after.



where once you start, then you have to do the crown moulding, and doors, and then baseboards," Janet laughs. "We're not those 'one-room-at-a-time' people; it was just do the whole thing. And I can look at photos and give my opinions, but when it comes to doing it myself, I just give up. Give the job to someone who knows what they're doing."

Going pro was a good choice. The Casa Rio East project ended up involving eight colours throughout the house with 10-foot ceilings, a coffered dining room ceiling, eight-foot doors, tricky corners and moulding, some repair work and accent work around the fireplace and over the range hood. The couple decided the carpeting, hardwood flooring, cabinetry, tiles, bathroom tub surround and kitchen backsplash would remain unchanged. All

the paint colours had to work with existing elements.

Tricky Elements

Nine-foot solid woodcore doors were left in place and hand-sprayed after individual sealed spray booths were erected around each one. Janet says no fewer than three painters and as many as five at a time were working from sometimes 7 a.m. to as late as 9 p.m. The couple stayed in the house during the two-week procedure, boxing up possessions and moving furniture into the centre of each room.

Don stayed in the controlled chaos the entire time, but Janet was away for a week. The transformation was, she says, stunning. But some dramatic changes took an adjustment period. Changing out the fall colours for whites and greys was startling.

"When I came back, there were certain rooms I loved immediately," Janet recalls, "like the softer paler green in our bedroom that went with the carpet. I loved the dining room. What was hard to adjust to was the white. It is beautiful, but so different. The bright and white look makes the woodwork pop rather than blending with the fall colours."

Side Benefits

An added benefit of a whole-house paint reno is the opportunity to do that anticipated downsizing.

"Light colours call for more sparse decorating, less stuff, so I've taken my time to see what works," Janet says, noting there are boxes in the garage "that won't be coming back into the house!"

"It all looks so light and fresh," she adds. "I'm so happy

we took on the project. It feels like a new home, but it's still ours."

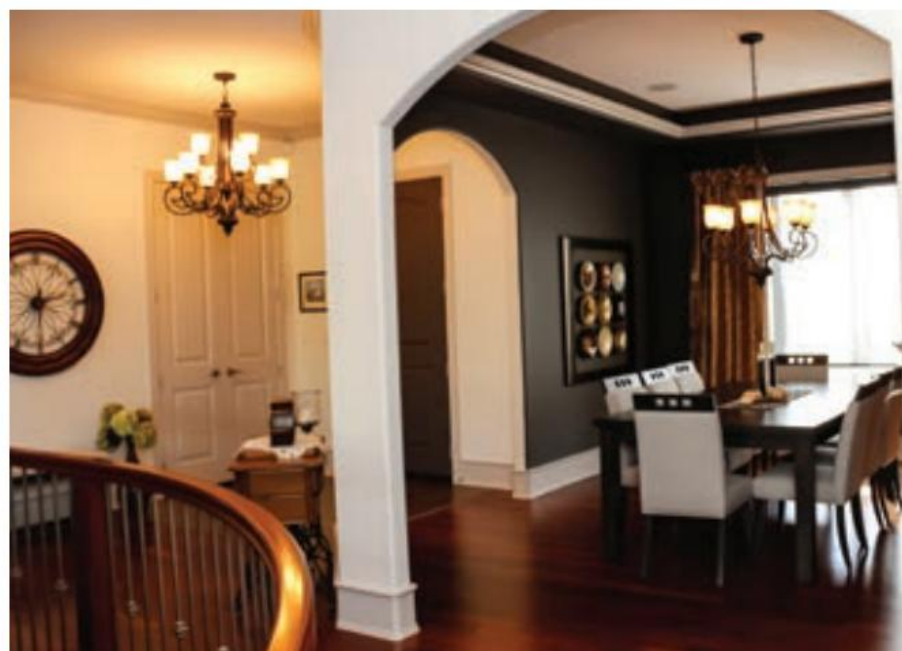
Earn Your Painting Degree

Most of us have been painting since we used our fingers for things Mom put up on the fridge. But painting isn't always as easy as it looks at first blush. Terry and Marie Wuschenny, owners of 360° Painting, along with daughter Carly in Operations and Business Development, encourage clients to do some homework if they want to paint like a pro.

Knowing the properties of particular paints, the types of surfaces to be covered and putting in proper preparation time are all key in any interior or exterior project. Terry believes that a fresh coat of paint increases a home's value by ten per cent, and improves resale potential by 25 per ➤



The before and after photos tell the tale about the impact updated paint colours can have in living spaces.



Cabinetry and stone work seems to blend too much with the earthy colours. After painting in more up-to-date colours, these elements seemed to demand their own attention.



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Janet, who loves autumn colours, can still add pops of orange, but loves the more updated look.

cent. So it's worth the investment in doing it right.

DIY or Hire a Pro?

Probably the first decision to make is whether to tackle the job yourself or hire a professional. It will of course depend on your comfort level, budget, time constraints and other obligations. If you go it alone, take advantage of the expert advice at the paint store.

Assess the Surface

If you plan to cover trim, walls, doors or cabinetry, examine the surface and find out if it's oil-based paint, stain or varnish and whether it's wood, metal, stucco or other material. Do repairs before you start, and know what needs to be primed after that job. Stubborn colour tannins from surfaces or old products need to be treated properly to block seepage into the new application. ➤

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Choose the Right Paint

Most paint stores will sell small pots of paint so you can apply test patches in different locations at different times of day. 360° Painting project coordinator Ashley Millar suggests test patches of two feet by two feet in different areas. "It's very difficult to gauge the look by

a small paint chip under store fluorescents."

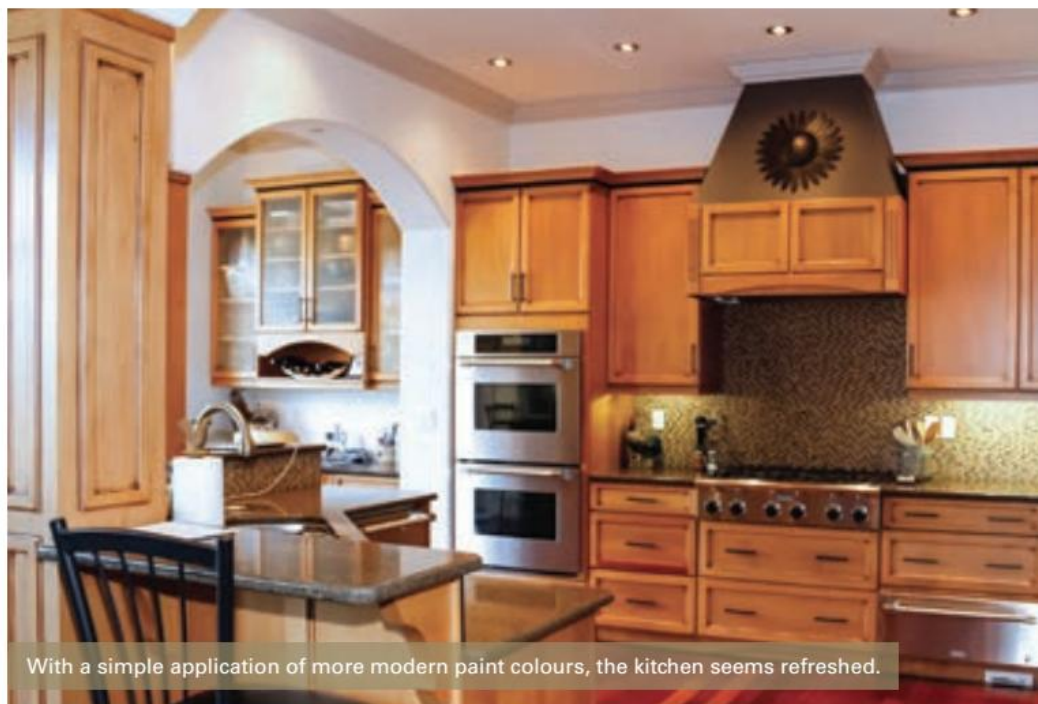
Stay in the Range

For variation in tone, Terry suggests selecting at least two shades up or down on the same colour palette. You can say in the same palette, but a different colour should

look like an intentional choice.

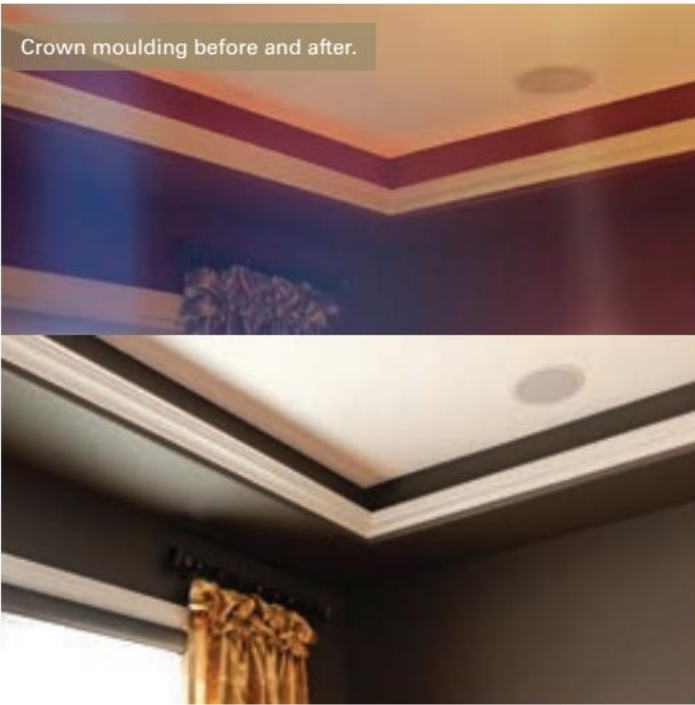
Know Your Sheen

All the patching work you do is for naught if you don't match the sheen. Even with the same colour, you'll end up with a patchwork wall if, for example, you apply eggshell over flat, or gloss over a matt finish.



With a simple application of more modern paint colours, the kitchen seems refreshed.

Crown moulding before and after.



Understand Lighting

Colour 'temperature' is measured in Kelvin (K) units. The lower temps appear 'warmer.' A small chip under a fluorescent store light will look very different in your living room. White trim under a 2700K bulb will look yellow. Under a 5000K bulb, it's bright white. Terry recommends 5000K lighting in any build or renovation. "If you're going to work on skylights or change lighting temperatures, ask your electrician how it will change the look of the paint colours." Glass globes on fixtures can also affect the paint colour.

Paint in the Computer Age

Every paint manufacturer can colour match so the brand doesn't matter. If you bought PPG Pittsburgh Paint from J&H Builders Warehouse, you can go to Sherwin Williams or Benjamin Moore and their computers have millions of colours to get exactly what you need.

Know Paint Changes

Matching might be easy, but keep in mind leftover paint can change over time. Today's paints are more environmentally friendly, but without formaldehyde, they 'go bad' more quickly. And depending on direct sunlight, children, pets, traffic flow, it can fade on the wall. High-end paints with better tints can hold their colour for two to three years. Lesser paints maybe a year or so.

Keep Your Codes

You don't have to keep the cans. But do keep the codes and dates of application. 360° Painting leaves their clients a record of each paint used and project details, so getting the right paint for touchups in a year isn't a problem.

Wait to be wowed. "I think Don and Janet re-fell in love with their house," says Ashley. "Paint done right can do that." (i)

Karin Melberg Schwier

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around the city.

Before you book off that time off, though, it's worth planning how you want to spend it. If you have no plan, you might end up frittering away the time, languishing in front of the boob tube, cleaning or answering emails.

Set an 'away' message on your voicemail and email like you would if you were leaving the country. Write down the activities you want to try, and maybe even invite friends to join you to keep you accountable. When you're on a staycation, even though you're still

at home, it's up to you to make the most of your time.

STAY IN

Borrow From the Library

When it's cold outside, what's better than putting on your comfiest clothes and

curling up on the couch with your favourite entertainment? The library has an extensive collection of books, movies and even video games to borrow, all of which you can bring home to enjoy at your leisure at the low, low cost of free. If you're feeling cooped up, the library also has extensive programming for all ages. You can also go online in advance and request items be brought to your closest library location.

Have a Board Game Night

Time to blow off the dust on those board games in the cupboard! Everyone has a copy of Monopoly, right? Or maybe chess, checkers or Settlers of Catan. Tell the kids to turn off the tablet, or call some friends over for an afternoon or evening of gaming. If you don't have any board games in the house, check out some of the gaming cafes in the city where for a minimal cost you can choose from a whole wall of games and enjoy a coffee, tea or snack while playing.

Host a Potluck

You could host a dinner party, but then you'd have to buy all the ingredients and prepare all the food. For a potluck, you still have to tidy the house, but you only have to prepare one dish, and you get to try your friends' favourite recipes. Or try a themed potluck—dishes from Mexico or Ukraine, or perhaps only foods that start with P. No matter your age or stage in life, potlucks are a good time. Reconnect with old friends, let the kids blow off steam in the playroom and eat until you're stuffed.

Throw an Art Party

Arts and crafts can be a lot of fun with the right people—whether that means leading your tykes and their friends

through an easy craft you found online, or breaking out the wine and passing around a piece of paper or canvas and collaborating on a creation. You might even have the supplies you need for some crafts and drawing around your home; if not, purchasing what you need from the art supply store or a dollar store can be part of the fun.

Hold a Swap with Friends

Sometimes "new to you" stuff can be just as fun as store-bought new, and with a swap party, you don't even have to scrounge through second hand stores. Everyone attending brings items they'd like to trade, arranges them on a table, and then you swap! You can trade specific items, like only clothing, or you can have a free for all—accessories, decor, books, movies, games, toys, tools, you name it. One tip: Set out rules in advance; for example, does one item equal one trade?

GET OUT

Escape Rooms

The door closes behind you, and the timer starts. It's up to you and your crew to figure out the puzzles and escape before the time runs out. The premise of escape rooms is simple: you and your team must solve a series of interactive puzzles within a set amount of time, usually 45 minutes to an hour. Set in a room or series of rooms with an accompanying storyline, the goal is to "escape." You're not actually locked in, but you probably won't walk out because you'll be too busy solving puzzles.

Theatre

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Photo: PotashCorp WinterShines

high production value and a variety of plays for every palate. Even better, winter is one of the busiest seasons. Persephone Theatre has plays running almost constantly between the Main Stage, the alternative Deep End shows and community events. Plus, there are shows from Live Five, LaTroupe du Jour, Greystone Theatre and more. It's worth it to see the amazing talent we have in this city and what comes through on tour.

Remai Modern

If you haven't been already, aren't you at least a little bit curious to see what the hubbub is all about? In addition to seeing the art in an ultra-modern, brand-spanking new gallery on the riverbank, you'll get to be a part of history. Be among the first to visit one of Canada's newest modern art galleries in the first few months of opening. There's also programming all winter long; check the calendar on the website for more details.

Bowling

With two or more, bowling is an inexpensive and fun activity

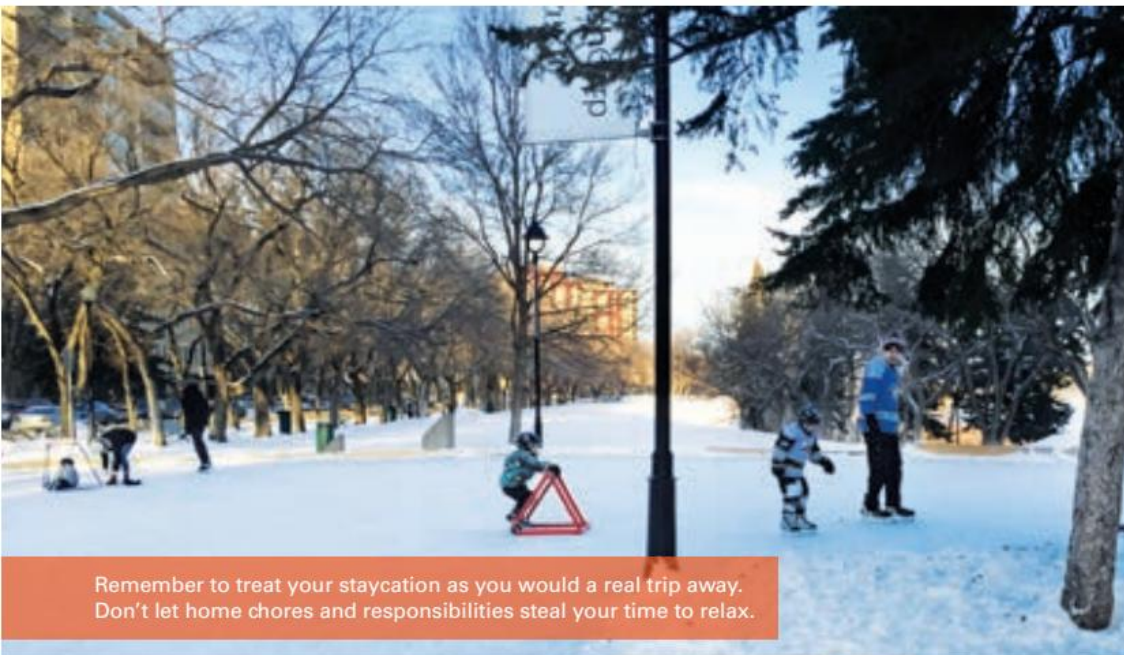
for many age levels. From an intense game of 10 pin, to a modified game of 5 pin with the dinosaur slide out and the gutter rails up, you can make the game exciting for you. And who doesn't love finding a ball they truly connect with, loving the colour and/or weight, and battling for it as it zips up the ball return. Just an added element to the experience.

PotashCorp WinterShines

While Saskatoon summers are jam-packed with festivals, our winters tend to be a little bare, except for WinterShines. The annual festival is back again in 2018 with nine days of activities at and around the Saskatoon Farmers' Market (Jan. 27-Feb. 4). Activities and events include the popular soup cook-off, a petting zoo, pony rides, ice sculptures, an ice play area and sleigh rides.

Outdoor Ice Skating

Twinkling lights brighten the trees, a bonfire burns merrily, laughter sounds from the warm up hut as skaters step onto the ice and the Bessborough looms over like a castle in a fairy tale.



Remember to treat your staycation as you would a real trip away. Don't let home chores and responsibilities steal your time to relax.

Photo: Lillian Lane

The Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink at PotashCorp Plaza has been called the most beautiful outdoor skating rink in Canada. There's no entrance fee, you can borrow skates for free and

there's even a bathroom. If you're looking for more of a workout, the Clarence Downey Speed Skating Oval is also free to use, and there are skating rinks in almost every neigh-

bourhood, likely a short walk from your house.

Cross Country Skiing

A surprising number of people have cross-country skis

tucked away in their storage room; if you're one of these people, a staycation is the perfect time to dust them off and hit the trails. If not, you can rent skis from many places in the city. Saskatoon has several well-maintained cross-country ski trails located throughout the city, and the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club keeps a trail update online at saskatoon-nordicski.ca/trails. Or if you're feeling adventurous, you can break your own.

Staycations are the perfect way to relax and recuperate, have fun with friends and family and try new things—if you manage your time right. Treat your staycation like any other vacation, and you'll find staying home can be as rewarding as travelling to far-off destinations. Enjoy your at-home adventure. (i)

Ashleigh Mattern

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CARRYING ON TRADITION IN THE HOME

Locals Preserve Their Ethnic Roots



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

The cultural mosaic of Saskatoon easily goes to show how the classic African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child,” can be flipped to suggest that, just importantly, it takes many people to raise a village. Saskatoon is a vibrant village, rich with scores of ethnic flavours, expressions of multicultural diversity and traditions beloved by the first peoples of this land along with others from around the world.

A Saskatoon Showcase

Folkfest is one of many multicultural and heritage celebrations. Started in 1980, the festival featured 21 different cultures in 2017. Executive director Terri Rau calls the event “a local treasure.”

“It’s amazing to see the transformation of people as they make new friendships and develop new-found respect for one another’s cultures.”

Diversity Day to Day

It’s been over 45 years since Canada adopted an official multiculturalism policy, the first in the world to do so. It affirmed the value of Canadians no matter what their racial or cultural roots, language or religion. While Folkfest is a very public celebration of that diversity, Saskatoon’s many cultures go about the task of maintaining

their traditions, celebrating their heritage and homelands and passing on their cultural identity to children year round.

Saskatoon HOME approached representatives of just a few, just the tip of the cultural iceberg. Here is a glimpse of what people do to maintain a colourful, rich and fascinating community.

CARIBBEAN, VERONIQUE LOEWEN

“I emigrated from the French Caribbean island of Martinique in February 1993. Pretty quickly I realized that besides the people, I missed the flavours, smells, sounds and sights of Martinique. It wasn’t as easy as it is now to find ethnic foods, spices, fruits and vegetables of warm climates. It took real creativity to cook like we do back in the Caribbean. I have filled my home with many prints, original paintings, artefacts, collector bottles of rum—our national liquor—things that symbolize Martinique, its way of life, landscapes and people. The music of Martinique echoes in our home. Even the straw-hat replica of my father’s when he worked in the sugar cane reminds me of my roots. Not as often as I’d like, the smells and flavours of favourites like chicken colombo, sweet potatoes gratin, and communion chocolate and butter bread nourish my family.”



FRANCOPHONE, CHRIS GUÉRETTE

"As a Francophone from the Maritimes, food is a big part of keeping our traditions alive. The whole family cannot wait for my batch of tourtière at Christmas, my mother's recipe. We celebrate very late at night on the 24th; these were always very special memories to me. I am Acadian but my husband is English (UK) so it's a nice mix. We have tourtière and sticky toffee pudding and everyone is happy. We make a new Christmas decoration for the tree every year, a tradition we have started in New Brunswick. On August 15th, we celebrate Acadian Day with friends. It looks different every year but we get lobster, listen to Acadian music and have a fire in the back yard. Since we can't be in New Brunswick, we make a mini-NB here at home."



Photo: Chris Guérette's children Jan-Sébastien, bottom, and Louis-Pascal celebrate their mother's Francophone roots



GERMAN, SIGRID KIRMSE

"I come from the Erzgebirge in the east of Germany. I have hand-carved wooden figurines, some are more than 50 years old. All are decorations, folkart, never toys. Starting the first Advent, I unpack the Advent Leuchter, the Advent Wreath, Kurrende, angel choirs, Weihnachtspyramide and the Schwip-pbogen, different kinds of incense burners, nutcrackers and decorate with candles all over. As was custom back home, there is singing, baking cookies and the delicious Christmas Stollen. Tree branches were cut and placed in vases to blossom by Christmas. Every child had an Advent Kalender. On December 5th, children put their well-polished boots outside their bedroom door so St. Nikolaus could fill them with sweets because December 6th is Nikolaus Day. On Christmas Eve, my father locked himself in the living room to decorate the tree. That evening we ate the plainest meal of warm potato salad and wieners. Then we went to Christmette at church. Afterward the candles were lit, my dad rang a bell and we children sang Ihr Kinderlein kommet so we could see all the glory of the decorated tree and the presents from my parents. The Christmas festivities lasted until January 5th, then the tree was taken down and normal days begin again. My family still practices these special traditions."

GREEK, KALOMIRA COUROS

"My husband was Marinos and the last name is really Kourogiorga, but so many names were shorted. We had four children and I tried to teach them about their culture, the language. The big thing for me is the church and Greek Orthodox was more than just religion, it was the family, who we are. We were the only Greeks in Humboldt then, so it is difficult. I say to the kids please speak Greek. Just try! We teach the kids and grandchildren to be close to family, to get along, to be decent people. Once I was singing the old song and the grandkids ask what it is. We sing it when we are rolling the dough, make the baklava, kourabiedes, melo-makarona, koulourakia. I teach all the grandkids to count in Greek. Sometimes I tell them stories about my parents, and when I was young. For 23 years, we had Greek restaurant, and so busy so I didn't teach them as much as I would like. It makes me feel good to speak the language, to remember my father picking grapes, olives, lemons and oranges. My mother in the garden, baking bread in the big outside oven. I still remember how good the smell."



JEWISH, HEATHER FENYES

"As a Jewish woman, and mother, my connection to faith is often routed through my kitchen and dining room table. The Jewish calendar is filled with holidays and customs. The thread that weaves it all together for me is Shabbat—the Sabbath. Every Friday my family gathers to make the ceremonial blessings and share hours of food, family and faith. We light candles to welcome the Sabbath, bless the wine, the bread and the children. In our home, traditions blur; the male/female roles are alternated between my husband, my children and me. The bread we bless is a special braided egg variety, called chalah. Dinner is large; in the winter it often begins with traditional chicken soup and matzah balls. The evening lasts hours; the conversation and the company is what lingers. Friday nights have layered one upon another for 33 years. We are the family we have become in large part because of Shabbat dinner."



MÉTIS, HANNAH CALETTE

Hannah Calette carefully works on the hand-sewn capote she is making for her mooshum (grandfather). While the sash remains the most important and enduring clothing item for the Métis, the capote, or blanket coat, is also traditional garb. The capote is entirely handmade from a wool blanket, often a point blanket with a stripe. The capote wraps and ties with a sash or waist belt to allow for temperature changes and has a hood with a long tail and fringes at the shoulders to wick away moisture. Wool will keep the wearer warm, even when wet. Métis families like Hannah's are reclaiming the traditional arts through cultural workshops like this one offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute.



Photo: Gabrielle Dumont Institute



Sabah Aloush, second from left, and Mouwafak Al Amouri, left, and their children with friends Murray, Max, Davida and Lorraine

MUSLIM, SABAH ALOUSH

Sabah Aloush, a Muslim woman from war-torn Syria, and her husband Mouwafak Al Amouri, seven-year-old Mohammad, five-year-old Manar and Youssef, just 18 months, fled Syria to Lebanon in 2011. Omar was born there. The Aloush family was number 549 on the UN refugee list. Later, millions would be placed on that same list. They came to Canada in 2016. Sabah cherishes her cooking that connects her to Syria and to her faith. Food is central to the Syrian culture. Family and friends stay connected over food and drink, always a leisurely occasion. "When I am cooking, I am thinking of my family and friends left in Syria and Lebanon. I enjoy sharing my culture with my new Canadian friends." Sabah attends English language classes almost without exception every day since her family's arrival. She would like to be a chef, a profession that touches her heart and connects her, and her family, to her homeland.



SCOTTISH, MARJ SCHARF

"I often make my favourites, haggis and turnip—or neeps—casserole, for the traditional Robbie Burns Nicht supper, close to January 25th when the Scottish poet was born. I make turnips for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The girls danced; Maureen started highland dancing when she was five; Linda and Eleanor took Irish. Maureen and our son Forrest both took up bagpipes, so dancing and the pipe band was big in the family. I still have the kids' kilts, and other bits and pieces, some from trips to see where our families came from. Murray's maternal great-grandparents came to Canada after their marriage in Jedburgh, Scotland in 1869. My family, the Galloways, came from Glasgow in the early 1900s. Murray and I still farm that homestead near Melfort. We both grew up hearing stories about our Irish and Scottish roots, so it was just part of our identity."



SOUTH SUDANESE, SENOS TIMON

Senos Timon and his wife Betty Poni Cerelo-Loboro, bottom left, with friends Grace Gorak, top left, and Salina Muni



"South Sudan in northeastern Africa is the world's youngest nation. I grew up in the security of my family, reared in our traditions but also with a strong Christian background. My wife Betty Poni Cerelo-Loboro is also from South Sudan and we, with our boys age three and five, were among the few fortunate South Sudanese refugees given sanctuary in Canada in 2000. Our baby girl was born in 2001. Maintaining our culture and traditions is little bit challenging, but it's not impossible. South Sudan has diverse cultures and we keep these traditions at home by storytelling about our arts and crafts and tradition customs. Baskets are very significant to our culture and livelihood, used for filtering grains before it's grind to flour. As community, we get together to enjoy traditional coffee, share our unique cultural dress, traditional dance and tell stories about our marriages, and the naming of newborn babies."

UKRAINIAN, MARION MUTALA

"Traditionally, at Ukrainian weddings children are welcome. While dancing on the dance floor in the halls, adults just dance around them. At the end of the evening, the kolemeyka, a huge circle dance is performed. Individuals or groups enter into the centre to show off their dance moves. Dancing in beautiful ethnic costumes from different areas of Ukraine keeps the culture alive. Children are uninhibited and dancing builds confidence, poise, style, stage presence and the ability to cooperate. Faith, family, friends, food, fun, music and dance are vital parts of Ukrainian culture, naturally integrated into our homes." (H)

Karin Melberg Schwier



Marion Mutala with young dancers Lena Gabrush and Carson Putz



Michelle with her mother Brenda.

HOME FOOD:

German Bierocks



CRAIG SILLIPHANT



LILLIAN LANE

From Cornish pastries to calzones, different variations on meat-filled bread are served all over the world. I mean, it's a pretty elemental combination, so it's no surprise that many cultures have their unique take on this idea.

Each Christmas, Michelle

Rowlett and her family have a holiday tradition: the bierock. It's a savoury, baked yeast-dough pocket, filled with ground beef, pork, onions and shredded cabbage.

"It's like a German pizza pop," says Michelle, "except you form it into a square

instead of a half moon. Maybe we'll do it at Easter sometimes, but they're a heck of a lot of work, so I can only do it once or twice a year. Typically, it's just Christmas Eve."

Even if it's just once a year, we can't have enough meat-filled Christmas traditions.

Sorry, vegans.

Bierocks have a confusing and contested origin. While they are often thought of as originating in Russia, they're also credited to Germans. It makes more sense if you know about Volga Germans.

Volga Germans were



recruited to form immigrant colonies in Russia, allowed to keep their culture, language, churches and apparently, meat-filled goodies. Traditionally, bierock was thought to have been derived from the Russian word, 'pirog.' However, more recently some have speculated that it comes from the word for the Turkish version of the pastry, 'börek,' because the Volga colonies were in areas with a high population of turkic language speakers. Starting in the late 1800s, Volga Germans came to the Americas, so you'll find bierocks in the Canadian prairies, heartland states like Nebraska and Wisconsin and even in South America (mainly Brazil and Argentina).

There is also debate about how to spell and pronounce bierock, depending on where you hail from. In fact, Michelle

spells it 'birok,' and pronounces it 'beer-rowks.' I found spellings like beerock, bierox and berrock. Sometimes they're called 'runza.' In fact, there is a fast food chain in the US called Runza that serves them.

They should be called beef rocks. I mean, they're soft, little bread rocks filled with beef, right? Sorry, dad joke.

Michelle usually makes them in batches of six dozen or so. "You start in the morning and you order pizza for dinner—you're not cooking because you've been in the kitchen all day," she chuckles.

She learned from her grandmother, who has since passed. The tradition has now fallen to her and her mom (Brenda).

"My grandma was always my cooking hero. I've always wanted to cook like her. She'd use a little bit of this and a ➤

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GERMAN BIEROCKS



Filling:

3 lbs hamburger
3 lbs ground pork
5 heads of diced green cabbage
5-6 diced medium onions
salt and pepper

Saute diced onion and meat on low temp, stirring regularly, until meat is no longer pink.

Add diced cabbage gradually, allowing to wilt in between additions. Stir regularly.

Cook until cabbage is thoroughly cooked. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Dough:

6 loaves of thawed frozen dough loaves

The night before making the bierocks place the dough in a large bowl or a few smaller ones. Cover and leave them out to thaw and rise.

Assembly:

Roll out one thawed loaf at a time on a floured surface to 1/4" thickness. Cut squares with a pizza cutter 3"x3". Take approx. 2 tbsp of filling and place in the centre of square. Pinch closed diagonally from opposite corner to corner. Seams should make an X on the bottom when done. Place bierocks seam side down on a slightly oiled (vegetable, not olive) cookie sheet. Fill sheet, leave room for expansion during cooking. Bake in a 400°F oven for 30 minutes. Cool slightly on cookie sheet. Wipe the top of each with a folded paper towel that has been saturated with oil. Then flip the bierocks seam side up to finish cooling.

Recipe makes about 60-70 bierocks.

little bit of that. No recipes. She taught me how to bake, how to cook and how to sew. So the first time I ever made them was at my grandma's apron strings. I was probably around eight."

"Grandma and Grandpa were from Regina," she continues, "so when they would come for Christmas, they'd come a few days early and we would do the big production. As I became a teenager, I maybe didn't want to be involved as much, so she did it all. But as I had children, I wanted to pass on our traditions, so I wanted to be involved again. There was many a Christmas when it would be my grandma, my mom and myself doing the bierock before Christmas Eve."

To make the bierock, you start by making dough.

"My grandma used to make her own dough," explains Michelle. "I'm not really good with yeast and dough so I go for the frozen dough. In my grandmother's later years, she did use the frozen dough, so I don't feel like I'm doing her memory too much disservice."

The night before, you take out the frozen dough so it's thawed and ready first thing in the morning. You can cut

the cabbage and onions the day before so they are waiting in the fridge as well.

You start the filling, add pork, beef, onions and the seasonings, reduce it and gradually add the cabbage as it wilts. Then you roll out the dough and cut it into squares. You add a couple of tablespoons of filling to each square, trying to keep them as uniform as possible.

"You might have a few odd shapes at the end if you have more filling than dough," Michelle says.

From there, bring up opposite corners and pinch them diagonally. Place them seam side down, not touching, onto a well-oiled cookie sheet. Oil the tops and they're ready for the oven. When you take them out of the oven, flip them so the seam side is up as they cool.

"I can't ever remember a Christmas without bierocks," Michelle says. "It didn't matter where you were. If you were with family in Vancouver, or if you were all in Saskatoon or Regina. There was always bierock on the Christmas Eve table." (H)

Craig Silliphant

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HOMEtown Reflections

 JEFF O'BRIEN

WILD WEATHER



Sutherland line blown in by snow, 1914.

Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

In Saskatoon, weather is our special friend and common enemy. It's true that tropical storms off the Atlantic almost never make it this far. Nor has it rained fish, lizards or even turtles. Not in recent memory anyway. But on a per capita basis, Saskatoon gets more weather than pretty much anywhere else in the world. So there's a lot for us to be proud of.

Although weather comes in all shapes and sizes—from drought to deluge and everything in between—when we think of “wild weather” here, it's winter we think of first. Indeed, that hallowed Saskatoon tradition of heading for warmer climes during the cold months dates all the way back to 1883, the very first year of the Temperance Colony settlement, when those who could do so packed their wagons in November before the ➤



Snow plow clearing Third Avenue South, Jan. 13, 1950.

Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - LH B 4106

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A 2nd Avenue downtown streetcar on a frosty winter's day, 1913.



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

Ice breaking up in the river at the weir, 1953.



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives

Wreckage from the footbridge over the downtown railway yards after a windstorm in 1930.



Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - A-1276

trails closed and headed down to Moose Jaw to catch a train back east until spring.

Teeth-Chattering Cold

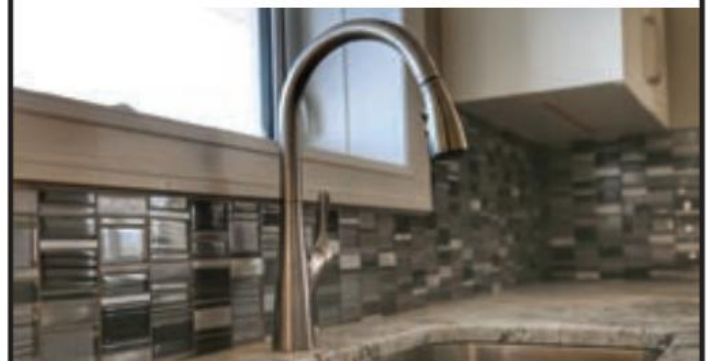
Saskatoon's coldest winter on record was in 1893, when a blast of icy weather at the end of January set records that last to this day, including the lowest temperatures ever recorded here: -49 and -50°C, on January 31 and February 1 respectively. The cold weather stretched through winter and into spring, with extended spells of arctic lows, a consequence of dust in the atmosphere from a string

of volcanic eruptions around the world in the years previous.

We have seen our share of epic winter storms. In January of 1888, a young Englishman named Ted Meeres left a house party on Broadway during a blizzard to check on his cattle, in a barn about a hundred yards away. He never made it. A few days later, searchers found his frozen body five miles south of town. During the disastrous winter of 1906-07, a spring snowstorm cut the city off from the rest of the world for two weeks until the railway lines could be ➤



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21st Street East after a major storm, March 15, 1927.



Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - PH 2011-38

Flooded 23rd Street subway after a rainstorm, ca. 1963.



Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - QC 2540

dug out. Storms in 1915 and 1927 (of which one optimistic commentator exulted: "enough moisture for a 500,000,000 bushel crop!") buried the streetcar line to Sutherland, requiring days to dig out. After one particularly nasty blizzard in the early 1980s, they even waived the bylaw forbidding snowmobiles on city streets.

More recently, the Great Storm of 2007 dropped more than 30 cm of snow on Saskatoon in just a few hours. This may or may not have been a record, depending from which weather station you're getting your data. Either way, with winds gusting up to 90 kph, it was a blizzard of near-biblical proportions. Across the city, schools, businesses and government offices closed. By mid-afternoon, Circle Drive Bridge was closed and downtown streets were completely gridlocked. Drivers faced commute times of three hours or more. At the height of the storm, fourteen major intersections were completely impassable. Some people simply abandoned their vehicles, and all over the city people were forced to hunker down where they were and just wait it out, sometimes overnight. Even the buses stopped running. After hours of struggling through the snow-choked streets and whiteout conditions, they were finally called back in around 6:00 p.m.

Of course, what comes down must subsequently be shovelled up. Men did much of the snow removal work in bygone days with actual shovels; many of these men would have been on unemployment relief. Priorities were different, then. After a storm in 1930, the newspaper reported that city crews were hard at work clearing the snow from sidewalks and streetcar ➤



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lines. There was no mention of streets. In 1930, if you insisted on taking your car to work the day after a snowstorm, you were on your own.

Some Like It Hot

It's not all endless blustery winter days here, no matter how it feels in the bleak depths of February. On June 5 and 6, 1988, the mercury broke through 41°C. Forty-degree days are a dime a dozen in Saskatoon, but temperatures over that are very rare. By way of comparison, the hottest

temperature ever recorded on Earth was 56.7°C (134°F) in Death Valley, California, on July 10, 1913. Saskatoon hit 29°C that day, which is not too shabby but won't fry any eggs on any sidewalks.

For a place with an average rainfall of only 13 inches per year, Saskatoon has seen its share of deluges. It's a rare summer that goes by without at least one major rain event, and people still remember canoeing down the streets in Greystone after a storm in 1974. But the king of them all

was on June 24, 1983, when a storm system dumped 10 cm of rain on the city in 30 minutes, causing millions of dollars of damage and one fatality; a young woman was trapped in her car in the flooded underpass at Circle Drive and Idylwyld and drowned.

More worrisome than too much rain is not enough. Memories of the cataclysmic drought of the 1930s, when a good-sized chunk of Saskatchewan simply dried up and blew away, are etched deep into our collective psyche. They used to

tell stories of children running in fear the first time they saw water falling from the sky, or of the young baseball player who got lost in a dust storm while rounding second and was never seen again. There have been dry years before and since.

The first permanent settlers to the new Saskatoon colony struggled with drought in the late 1880s. Farms failed as one new arrival reported cracks in the ground "large enough for a man to jump in up to his waist". In 2017, an extended spell of hot dry weather caused massive wildfires all across western Canada and the US, with attendant loss of life, destruction of forests and property. Saskatoon was not directly affected, but this year again saw refugees from fire-threatened communities up north pouring into the city.

Windy City

Then there's the wind. Wind is what turns a gentle snowfall into a whiteout. It's the reason why the air makes our face hurt and why we have words like "dust storm." Tornadoes, thankfully, are a rare bird. But they do happen, and "plough winds"—freak gusts blowing in suddenly out of nowhere—have caused their share of damage.

On the night of June 17, 1930, a sudden storm blew up, five minutes of pelting rain and a howling that ripped the cover off the pedestrian footbridge that used to cross the downtown railway yards between First Avenue and Avenue A, dumping most of it on the ground below.

Railway workers cleaning up the next day found the body of man beneath the wreckage, a visitor from North Battleford who'd had the misfortune to be cutting across the tracks at that exact moment.



Merchants on 23rd Street cleaning up after the storm of June 24, 1983.

Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - LH 4757

Flooded underpass at Idylwyld and Circle after a storm on June 24, 1983 in which a woman drowned.



Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - PH

But usually, wind-caused damages are limited to tree branches and any hapless automobiles unlucky enough to be parked beneath them.

In spite of all this, we love our weather. We revel in the power of a summer storm: the flash of lightning and the roll of thunder, the howl of the wind as it tears across the world. In the fall, the skittering of dry leaves dancing over the pavement presages the coming of winter, and those first flakes drifting down thick and soft from the night sky fill our hearts with joy.

Even the hard, cold days of mid-winter when the mercury seems to be stuck somewhere near the freezing point of helium are just another testament to our ability to survive and thrive in this magical place called Saskatoon. (H)

Jeff O'Brien

Toppled telephone pole on the outskirts of Saskatoon, aftermath of snowstorm ca. 1954-55.



Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - QC 141, Local

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CHIC AND CHEERFUL

Planning for Tasteful Family Whimsy

Designing and decorating a home can be complicated. There are competing tastes to consider if you don't live alone, budgets to balance and an endless array of furniture, fixtures, paint colours and accents to choose from. Throw kids into the mix and—if

they're old enough to form sentences—you have more opinions to contend with, and longevity to factor in.

For Jen Lapsiuk, a designer with Arbutus Properties, creating a tasteful kid-friendly home begins with forward thinking. "When I

am designing for kids, I take their age into consideration and go a little bit above it. I try not to design right for that moment because I know they'll be out of that stage quite quickly."

Jen kept this top of mind as she designed the cheerful

yet chic Arbutus showhome in The Meadows. Room by room, Jen balanced the needs of an imaginary family—it is a showhome after all. The layout and design were carefully rendered, ensuring the home appealed to both pint-sized provocateurs and their parents. ➤



Simpler, faster and cheaper than wallpaper, wall decals like these polka dots are easy to remove or change as your child grows up.



Picking a Paint Palette

"I like to start with a neutral palette and then add pops of colour," says Jen. "Then it's easy to change things over the years." Most of the walls in the home are white, but Jen has added colour with feature walls in the kids' rooms—dark teal in the girls' room and grey-blue in the boy's room. For the girls' room, Jen chose a dark teal feature wall and sprinkled it with mint- and fuchsia-coloured polka dot stickers to create dimension and a playful vibe. Wall decals like these are easy to remove or change as your child grows up.

Getting Creative

An open-air bonus room on the second floor was designed

for the whole family. The focal point of the space is a bold, black chalkboard wall.

"This is where we picture the family hanging out and just relaxing," says Jen. "I wanted to create a space for the kids to hang out too, and the chalkboard wall was the perfect way to let the kids get creative and it's easy to clean up. What kid doesn't want to draw on the wall?"

Not only is it a fun, artistic feature, it's also visually appealing, says Jen. "I love it because it looks nice too. I like the solid black wall—it adds a nice design element."

Jen added a desk in front of the chalk wall, and installed minimalist floating shelves

A little ceiling reinforcement makes a hanging chair and a rope ladder (shown on the next page) a fun and safe addition.



above. "The kids can do their artwork or homework at the desk." When selecting books to display, she chose ones with colourful covers that would coordinate with her design.

Encouraging Activity and Imagination

When Jen designed the two kids' rooms, she had a specific age range in mind for each. She envisioned a six- or seven-year-old boy in the bedroom where she created a mountain theme, complete with a custom climbing wall and rope ladder. "I know from having my own kids that they don't just sit still, they are busy. They're always trying to climb on things so I think having the climbing

wall is a huge bonus." As the child grows up, the climbing holds can be rearranged to make it more difficult. Once they outgrow it altogether, the board can be unscrewed from the wall, with only a few holes needing to be filled.

Across the hall is another children's bedroom. Here, Jen imagined four-year-old twin girls. She installed a whimsical wicker hanging chair in the corner. Draped with a faux sheepskin, it provides a perfectly cozy perch to read a book. The chair comfortably seats two small children, says Jen. "We put extra backing in the ceiling to reinforce the chair and for the hanging ladder in the boy's room." ➤

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The holds on the climbing wall can be rearranged in the future to make it more challenging as a child grows up. When it is ready to be removed it can be unscrewed from the wall, with only a few holes needing to be filled.

Adult-Approved Décor

Faux taxidermy has been popular in recent years, and Jen put a child-inspired spin on the trend by mounting a stuffed pink flamingo on the wall in the girls' room. "When I do my kids' designs, I like to create it so it's fun for them, but I also include décor or design elements that I like too," she says, pointing out the gold pineapple perched on a shelf and a woven wall hanging on an adjacent wall. "You can do that in a young kids' room—add décor items that speak to you."

Thoughtful Layout and Storage

Situating the family room on the second floor makes it

simpler to create a sophisticated adult space on the main floor, says Jen. Having toys out of sight also means less stress when company comes to visit.

"As a parent myself, I definitely like to keep my house looking a certain way, so having the living room downstairs and being able to keep it clean, and then having the kids' area upstairs, where everything is accessible for them, means the kids can be themselves and get crazy and you don't have to get upset," she says with a knowing laugh.

Not everyone is going to have an extra room for their kids to play in, aside from ➤



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their own bedrooms. "If you don't have the room, you can carve out a corner and add a little table and chairs—a cute little area for them." She recommends using labelled jars for their crayons, and labelled bins and decorative baskets for toys. "It helps the kids when they know where their toys go: 'This is the Lego bin; this is for your stuffed animals.' It keeps things tucked

away but easily accessible to the kids."

Jen carries this method of organization into the mudrooms she designs. "We design our mudrooms based on a family and make sure we have enough hooks and cubbies for shoes, and lots of storage, because when the kids are in school there are backpacks, gloves, mitts and a lot of other stuff." She likes

to line a shelf with baskets and label them so each child has their own space to store outdoor gear.

Forget 'Picture-Perfect'

Trying to create a picture-perfect family home might just be the epitome of a fool's errand. Jen thinks it's a goal parents should ditch.

"Trying to make your home too perfect just doesn't work

with kids," she says. "I've learned from having my own kids that it can't be perfect so I might as well work with it and create a space my kids are going to thrive in—a space they're going to grow in, get creative in and be themselves in." (H)

Julie Barnes

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